

I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. E-Rate has been very important to Saraland City Schools because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, communicate and collaborate, and develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my district's current and future bandwidth needs. Unfortunately my district's network is failing to keep up with the current demand and, knowing the need for reliable high-speed network will continue to increase, I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.

As a District Technology Coordinator in Alabama where there are many areas of intense economic disparity among the school districts, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the curriculum is a prerequisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high-speed broadband is the key to allowing modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country. E-Rate funding assists my district in closing the gap of economic disparity which assists the district in providing online classes, meeting Common Core State Standards, administer online assessments, and make data driven decisions.